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T.H.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of)

Robert McCracken)

Group Art Unit: 3635

Serial No. 09/336,207)

Examiner: Yvonne M. Horton

Filed: June 18, 1999)

For: SPANNING MEMBER WITH)
CONVULUTED WEB, C-SHAPED)
FLAGES, AND END PLATE)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Arlington, VA. 22313-1450

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GROUP 3600

Dear Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified patent application, kindly enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks relative to the continued examination of the patent application.

Amendments to the Claims start on page 2 of this response.

Remarks start on page 5 of this response.